



After criticism, Trump pushes out Mattis sooner than planned

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Irritated with the criticism and fallout from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' resignation, President Donald Trump on Sunday pushed the Pentagon chief out the door two months earlier than planned, an acrimonious end to a tense relationship that had been eroding in recent months.

In a series of tweets, Trump appeared to question why he had put Mattis in his Cabinet in the first place, and said deputy defense secretary Patrick Shanahan will take over as acting secretary on Jan. 1 to cover the accelerated departure.

The sudden change strips Mattis of any chance to further frame national security policy or smooth rattled relations with allies through the originally planned transition at the end of February.

And it reflects White House displeasure with the retired Marine Corps general's blistering resignation letter, which he delivered to Trump on Thursday.

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In this April 9, 2018, file photo, Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, right, listen as President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House. Associated Press



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AP Explains: What happens in a partial government shutdown

By The Associated Press

A look at the impact of the partial government shutdown:

WHAT'S OPEN AND WHAT'S CLOSED

Social Security checks will go out and troops will re-

main at their posts. Doctors and hospitals will receive their Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. The U.S. Postal Service, busy delivering packages for the holiday season, is an independent agency and won't be affected. Pass-

port services, which are funded by fees and not government spending, will also continue. Virtually every essential government agency, including the FBI, the Border Patrol and the Coast Guard, will remain open. Transportation Se-



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Associated Press

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curity Administration officers will staff airport checkpoints. The air traffic control system, food inspection, Medicare, veterans' health care and many other essential government programs will run as usual. The Federal Emergency Management Agency can continue to respond to disasters. Nearly 90 percent of the Department of Homeland Security's 240,000 employees will be at work because they're considered essential. Special counsel Robert Mueller's office, which is investigating potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, is unaffected by a shutdown. But hundreds of thousands of federal workers will be forced off the job, and some services will go dark. In the past, the vast majority of national parks were closed to visitors and campers, but beginning with the last government shutdown, in January, the Interior Department has tried to make parks as accessible as possible despite bare-bones staffing levels. Some are staying open thanks to

funding from states and charitable groups.

In Washington, the museums along the National Mall will remain open at least through Jan. 1, but Smithsonian officials said they will reevaluate the situation if the shutdown continues into the new year. The Washington Monument is closed for repairs.

Arizona and Utah officials put in place plans to keep open Grand Canyon, Zion, Arches and Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks.

At the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, it was business as usual, thanks to funding from New York state.

FEDERAL WORKERS STILL GET PAID — EVENTUALLY

While they can be kept on the job, federal workers won't be paid for days worked during the lapse in funding. In the past, however, they have been repaid retroactively even if they were ordered to stay home. White House officials said that would be the case again.

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AP Explains: What happens in a partial government shutdown

Continued from Page 2

The Senate already has passed legislation ensuring that workers will receive back pay. The House seems sure to follow suit.

Federal employees already were granted an extra day of vacation on Monday, Christmas Eve, under an executive order Trump signed this past week.

Federal workers are exempted from furloughs if their jobs are national security-related or if they perform essential activities that "protect life and property." According to a report by Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee, more than 420,000 federal employees deemed essential will continue to work without pay, including

about 41,000 law enforcement and corrections officers. The Homeland Security employees who will keep working include about 150,000 from the Coast Guard, TSA and Customs and Border Protection.

More than 380,000 employees will be furloughed — including nearly all from NASA and Housing and Urban Development and 41,000 from the Commerce Department. About 16,000 National Park Service employees — 80 percent of the agency's workforce — will be furloughed.

Also among those who will furloughed: 52,000 staffers at the Internal Revenue Service, slowing analysis and collection of hundreds of thousands of tax returns and audits.

SHUTDOWNS HAPPEN

Shutdowns happened every year when Jimmy Carter was president, averaging 11 days each. During President Ronald Reagan's

two terms, there were six shutdowns, typically just one or two days apiece. Before a three-day lapse in January, caused by Democrats' insistence that any budget measure

come with protections for young immigrants known as "Dreamers," the most recent significant shutdown was a 16-day partial shutting of the government in 2013. □



Park ranger Kevin Sturmer drags pylons up Trail Ridge Road to block access after an overnight snow was left unplowed in Rocky Mountain National Park Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, in Estes Park, Colo.

Associated Press

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In this Sept. 21, 2018, file photo, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis speaks during the 2018 POW/MIA National Recognition Day Ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington.

Associated Press

After criticism, Trump pushes out Mattis sooner than planned

Continued from Front

Mattis resigned in protest over Trump's decision to pull all U.S. troops out of Syria. U.S. officials, however, said that the reaction to his decision to leave — including the shock and dismay expressed on Capitol Hill — annoyed Trump and

likely led to Mattis leaving earlier than planned.

"When President Obama ingloriously fired Jim Mattis, I gave him a second chance. Some thought I shouldn't, I thought I should," Trump tweeted Saturday, foreshadowing his displeasure and the Sunday announcement. He also fumed over the media coverage of his Syria withdrawal order, suggesting he should be popular for bringing troops home.

"With me, hit hard instead by the Fake News Media. Crazy!" Trump tweeted. A White House official said Trump decided Mattis should leave the administration earlier than planned to avoid a drawn-out transition when someone on hand whom they consider a qualified deputy capable of running the Pentagon in an acting capacity. The official, who asked not to be identified publicly discussing personnel matters, said it made sense to have a quicker transition and not create problems.

The official said Mattis was notified of Trump's wishes prior to today's tweeted announcement.

Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino, a spokesman for Shanahan, said the former Boeing Co. executive will accept the appointment as acting secretary.

"Deputy Secretary will con-

tinue to serve as directed by the president, and the Department of Defense will remain focused on the defense of the nation," Buccino said on Sunday.

It is unusual for the Pentagon to have an acting secretary of defense. Historically when a secretary has resigned, he has stayed on until a successor is confirmed. For example, when Chuck Hagel was told to resign in November 2014, he stayed in office until Ash Carter was confirmed the following February.

While Mattis' resignation followed Trump's announcement that he would soon pull all of the approximately 2,000 U.S. troops out of Syria, officials said that the decision was the result of an accumulation of disagreements.

In a stunning resignation letter, Mattis made clear he did not see eye to eye with a president who has expressed disdain for NATO and doubts about keeping troops in Asia. Mattis was also unhappy with Trump's order to develop plans to pull out up to half of the 14,000 U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Earlier Sunday, Trump's acting chief of staff said that Trump had known for "quite some time now" that he and Mattis "did not share some of the same philosophies ... have the same world view." □

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Santa tracker will still run despite government shutdown

By DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP)— The government may be partially shut down, but that won't stop hundreds of volunteers dressed in Christmas hats and military uniforms Monday from taking calls from children around the world who want to know when Santa will be coming.

The military says the NORAD Tracks Santa won't be affected by the government shutdown because it is run by volunteers Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado and is funded by the Department of Defense's budget that was approved earlier this year. Now in its 63rd year, the Santa tracker became a Christmas Eve tradition after a mistaken phone call to the Continental Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1955. CONAD, as it was known, had the serious job of monitoring a far-flung radar network for any sign of a nuclear attack on the United States. When Col. Harry Shoup picked up the phone that day, he found himself talking not to a military general, but to a child who wanted to speak to Santa Claus. A Colorado Springs newspaper had run an ad inviting kids to call Santa but mistakenly listed the hotline number.

Shoup figured out what had happened and played along. The tradition has since mushroomed into an elaborate operation that attracts tens of thousands of calls every year. For the 1,500 civilian and military volunteers who will answer the phones for kids calling 1-877-HI-NORAD, it infuses the holiday with childlike wonder.

"They're all really sweet, small voices," said Madison Hill, a volunteer who helped answer the phones in two previous years. "I had a little girl tell me good night instead of goodbye," she said. "It's really sweet."

The North American Aerospace Defense Command — a joint U.S.-Canadian

operation based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, that protects the skies over both countries — has taken over the Santa tracker since the tradition started. The military command center embraced and expanded the Santa-tracking mission and has been rewarded with a bounty of goodwill and good publicity.

Last year, NORAD Tracks Santa drew 126,000 phone calls, 18 million website hits, 1.8 million followers on Facebook and 179,000 more on Twitter.

It takes 160 phones to handle the calls that pour in. New volunteers get a playbook that briefs them on the questions kids might ask. Big screens on the walls show a Santa icon making blistering progress around the globe. U.S. and Canadian officers do live TV interviews from the phone rooms. "It really gets you into the Christmas spirit," said Hill, a student at Mississippi State University who got involved through Air Force family members stationed in Colorado Springs. "There are Christmas carols in the background, everyone's very friendly, happy to be there," she said.

One year, she took a call from a boy who began reading a very long Christmas list. "I remember having to cut him off after the 10th present or so," she said, explaining to him that she had to take calls from other children.

A girl told Hill she wanted to warn Santa not to bump into a bell hanging on her door. "I think she wanted Santa to be quiet and not wake her up," Hill said.

Sometimes the volunteers have to handle the unexpected. In 2012, a child from Newtown, Connecticut, asked if Santa could bring extra toys for families who lost children in the mass shooting that year at Sandy Hook Elementary.

"If I can get ahold of him, I'll try to get the message to him," replied the volunteer, Sara Berghoff.

NORAD's commander, Air Force Gen. Terrence J.



In this Dec. 24, 2014, file photo, NORAD Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Charles D. Luckey takes a call while volunteering at the NORAD Tracks Santa center at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Associated Press

O'Shaughnessy, will also take a turn answering the phones Monday. "This is my first NORAD

Tracks Santa," said O'Shaughnessy, who took command in May. "I'm really excited."q

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In this Nov. 30, 2018 photo, medical marijuana dispensary owner Chance Gilbert displays some of the marijuana he's grown at the Oklahoma Roots dispensary in the bedroom community of Shawnee, about 40 miles east of Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

Oklahoma quickly becoming medical marijuana hotbed

By SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

The rollout of statewide medical and recreational marijuana programs typically is a grindingly slow process that can take years. Not so in Oklahoma, which moved with lightning speed once voters approved medical canna-

bis in June.

The ballot question received 57 percent support and established one of the nation's most liberal medical pot laws in one of the most conservative states. Six months later, the cannabis industry is booming. Farmers and entrepreneurs are racing to start commercial grow operations, and the state is issuing licenses to new patients, growers and dispensary operators at a frantic pace. Retail outlets opened just four months after legalization. By contrast, voters in North Dakota, Ohio and neighboring Arkansas approved medical pot in 2016 but have yet to see sales begin amid legal wrangling and legislative meddling.

"I think we really are the wild, wild West in many respects," said attorney Sarah Lee Gossett Parrish, whose firm in Norman represents several cannabis businesses. "Here in Oklahoma, we're a pretty independent constituency. We are primarily a red state, but we don't like a lot of government controls."

Indeed, unlike virtually every other state, Oklahoma officials created no list of qualifying medical conditions for people to get medicinal marijuana. That has prompted a flood of applications for personal licenses to purchase pot.

Since August more than 22,000 have been approved and thousands more are in the pipeline. There are now 785 licensed dispensaries. Some small Oklahoma towns have as many as a half-dozen. Norman and Stillwater, the state's two largest college towns, have 45 combined. Sage Farms is among more

than 1,200 licensed commercial growers. Owner Ben Neal has been using high-tech growing techniques for years to produce tomatoes, lettuce, peppers and other vegetables at his six greenhouses in rural Tulsa County. He's now converted a third of his operation to growing marijuana, hired three new workers and just harvested 200 pounds of various strains that will be auctioned next month.

Neal said he has been offered \$2,800 per pound for the entire crop, a total of \$560,000. He's shocked at how quickly Oklahoma has embraced the industry.

"Nine months ago, I was saying that Oklahoma would be the last state that ever does it, and then all of a sudden this happened," Neal said.

In the bedroom community of Shawnee, east of Oklahoma City, business is steady at the Oklahoma Roots dispensary. Chance Gilbert grows, processes and sells marijuana inside what once was a metal fabrication shop.

"It's kind of radical how fast it's gotten going," said Gilbert, who expects to produce about 50 pounds of marijuana a month once at full capacity. "We assumed it would be an Arkansas model, that it would be years before it was implemented and rolled out." The primary driver behind Oklahoma's quick rollout was a broadly written, citizen-led ballot question that included quick deadlines and required regulators to grant a license to every qualified applicant. But several political ingredients combined to push the effort along. □



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School bus driver shortage creates headaches for districts



In this Dec. 20, 2018 photo, a driver walks away from the school bus parking lot after his morning shift, in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

By GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — School districts throughout the U.S. are struggling to find school bus drivers, a challenge that has worsened with low unemployment and a strong economy.

The problem has become so severe that some districts are offering sign-up bonuses for new drivers, while others rely on mechanics, custodians and other school employees to fill the gap. For parents and students, the shortage can mean longer waits for a ride to school and more crowded buses.

The shortage stems from a variety of factors, including limited work hours and high barriers to entry. Drivers generally need a commercial driver's license, which requires training, sometimes without pay, said Mike Martin, executive director of the National Association of Pupil Transportation.

"Unless you have something to fill in the gaps (between drives), you can't make the money you need to support your family," Martin said. "These days, most people are looking for some kind of regular, full-time hours."

In Iowa's Southeast Polk Community School District, transportation director Daniel Schultz said the persistent shortage has grown worse in the suburban Des Moines district because there aren't as many retired farmers, a group that commonly took the job for extra income. Now, the

district relies on 51 drivers — mostly retirees and stay-at-home parents — to transport roughly 3,400 students to and from school each day.

Even with administrators and bus mechanics filling in, the shortage has also resulted in fewer routes, more children waiting at each stop, and crowded buses. The district needs to hire six to eight more drivers, Schultz said.

"We have to do double duty," Schultz said. "Right now, I'm driving and doing my regular job. The mechanics are driving and doing their regular jobs — so, instead of having eight hours a day, I only get them for four. It's like pulling a teacher out of the classroom for half a day and still expecting the same job to get done."

Pay starts at \$19.10 an hour, followed by a \$2-an-hour raise after six months, Schultz said, but the district struggles to fill open jobs. Schultz said he's now considering a "monthly rodeo" where potential drivers could test-drive a bus in a school parking lot.

"We're just trying anything we can right now," he said. In St. Paul, Minnesota, some students are arriving late to school because fill-in drivers aren't familiar with the normal routes. A school district in Ypsilanti, Michigan, had to cancel a day of school in February because there weren't enough substitute drivers to cover for sick drivers.

And in Hawaii last year, a driver shortage in Maui forced state officials sus-

pend bus rides for some students and limit rides for some others. The district offered free monthly bus passes on local public transportation.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, some positions remain unfilled even after the local school district offered \$1,000 signing bonuses for new hires and a guaranteed six-hour day for all drivers. Officials also recruited an Omaha-

based contractor to provide extra drivers when needed to help transport roughly 4,000 students a day. The district faced a shortage of 32 drivers this year but has reduced it to eight, transportation director Ryan Robley said.

Kristi Meyers, a Lincoln Public Schools bus driver for six years, said she loves her job and knows every student by name, but wouldn't

have been able to stay without the guaranteed hours and retirement benefits offered to senior drivers. Meyers drives routes throughout the day for elementary-age children and older youths who are in a job-skills training program. In the summer, she drives a bus carrying farm workers to make ends meet.

"It's a good job, and these are great kids," she said. □

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or

Braised Pork Cheeks
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Italian Senate OKs budget, tweaked to satisfy EU concerns

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — After a raucous marathon session, the Italian Senate early Sunday approved a national budget law that was tweaked after the European Union objected to plans by Italy's populist government to satisfy expensive campaign promises with a large deficit.

The budget, which was revised by the government so the European Union wouldn't trigger sanctions, faces a Dec. 31 deadline for final approval in the lower Chamber of Deputies.

Deputy Premier Luigi Di Maio, who heads the euroskeptic 5-Star Movement, assured supporters via Facebook that funding



The protest of "Forza Italia" party's senators during the discussion before the vote of confidence on the budget law in the Senate of the Republic, in Rome, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

in the 2019 budget would allow the coalition government to fulfill its pledges early in the year. They include rolling back pension changes and guaranteeing a minimum income for

jobless or underemployed Italians.

"There are things that should make us proud," Di Maio said a few hours after Parliament's upper chamber endorsed the revised

budget law at 3 a.m. with a 167-78 vote. Three senators abstained and dozens weren't present for the vote.

The budget also incorporates the promise by Di Maio's fellow deputy premier, Matteo Salvini of the "Italians First" League party, to enable Italians to retire at younger ages.

The government's budget isn't "based on philosophy or on finance, but regards everyday lives," Salvini said. Both leaders want to keep supporters happy, ahead of European Parliament elections in spring 2019.

The 5-Star Movement triumphed in this year's election thanks in large part to votes from the south, where unemployment among youth hits 50 percent. Di

Maio promised a minimum income of up to 780 euros (nearly 900 dollars) a month to those who agreed to look for work and undergo job training.

The revised budget has significantly less funding earmarked for the guaranteed income and eased pension rules than the amount in the version Italy first submitted to Brussels. But the costs are sizeable enough that Premier Giuseppe Conte's government has proposed new revenue sources to cover them.

The measures include taxes on higher-end, less energy efficient cars, on digital services, and on nonprofit groups, as well as slashing pensions that surpass 100,000 euros (\$114,000) a year. □



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Spanish PM: Consensus only way to resolve Catalonia crisis

By **JOSEPH WILSON**
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Spain's prime minister said in an interview published Sunday that only a solution supported by a large majority of Catalans and legal under the Spanish Constitution will resolve the crisis over whether the Catalonia region should secede or remain part of Spain. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told the Barcelona-based newspaper La Vanguardia that what "is needed is a wide consensus that right now doesn't exist in Catalonia." Voters in the wealthy northeastern region were evenly split in supporting parties for and against secession when the last regional election was held a year ago. However, the separatist politicians who prevailed in that vote and the previous Catalan election insist on pursuing a break with the rest of Spain.

While Catalonia's regional government wants a binding referendum on independence, Sanchez is urging them to work with counterparts who favor unity with Spain on drafting a new charter law for the region, one that significantly more than half of the region's 7.4 million residents would support. Sanchez has not detailed what he would like a new charter for Catalonia to look like.

"We have always said that we can find a solution to the Catalan political crisis within the Constitution," Sanchez said. "But the problem is not independence, it is about harmonious coexistence." □



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Turkey masses troops near Kurdish-held Syrian town

By SARAH EL DEEB
ZEYNEP BILGINSOY
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Turkey is massing troops near a town in northern Syria held by a U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led force, a war monitor said as Turkish media reported Sunday new reinforcements crossing the borders.

The Turkish buildup comes even though Turkey said it would delay a promised offensive in eastern Syria in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision this week to withdraw U.S. troops.

Trump tweeted on Sunday that he had a "long and productive" call with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan in which they discussed "the slow & highly coordinated" pullout of U.S. troops from the area. This is the two leaders' second phone conversation in 10 days. U.S. military officials are scrambling to come up with a schedule for the withdrawal of an estimated 2,000 troops.

A statement from the Turkish presidency said the two leaders agreed to coordinate militarily and diplomatically to ensure the U.S. pullout from Syria does not lead to an "authority vacuum."

Trump's decision, announced last week after a call with Erdogan, surprised his allies and own experts, sparking the resignation of two of his top aides. He had asked for an immediate withdrawal, but experts convinced him that they needed time to work out a timetable.



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a meeting of a youth organisation founded by his elder son Bilal Erdogan and his friends, in Istanbul Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

The Turkish IHA news agency reported that a convoy of Turkish troops — a commando unit — had been sent into Syria overnight.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the reinforcements were sent to the front line with Manbij, where U.S. troops have been based. The Observatory said 50 vehicles crossed into Syria — carrying troops and equipment. A Turkish military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government protocol, said the military reinforcements were dispatched to the areas administered by Turkey in northern Syria, without elaborating.

The spokesman for the Kurdish-led Manbij Military Council, Sharfan Darwish, said Turkish reinforcements have arrived in the area. "We are taking necessary measures to defend ourselves if we are attacked," he said without elaborating.

U.S. troops based around

Manbij patrolled the town and surrounding area on Sunday and were photographed speaking with the residents.

Turkey has welcomed Trump's decision. Ankara views the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces as an extension of the insurgency within its borders. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed to dislodge the Kurdish fighters from along its border with Syria.

The U.S. has since 2014 partnered with the Syrian Kurdish militia to drive out the Islamic State group, a partnership that soured relations between Ankara and Washington.

Allaying some of Turkey's fears was a deal reached in June over Manbij. According to the deal, the Kurdish militia would withdraw from Manbij and U.S. and Turkish troops would patrol the area as a new administration for the mixed Arab-Kurdish town is elected.

But Ankara says the U.S.

and the Kurds didn't live up to their end of the deal and that it would start an offensive in eastern Syria to drive out the militia. Turkey already has troops in northwestern Syria and has backed Syrian fighters there to clear towns and villages of IS militants and Kurdish fighters.

After Trump's decision, Erdogan said he would delay the eastern Syria offensive and would work on plans to clear out IS from the region. Youssef Hammoud, spokesman for the Syrian opposition fighters, accused the Kurdish militia of reaching out to the Syrian government to replace U.S. troops if they withdraw.

Darwish dismissed the claims as "untrue," calling them "old accusations" from the rival Syrian groups. Also Sunday, French President Emmanuel Macron said he "deeply regrets"

Trump's decision to pull U.S. troops out of Syria and warned it could have dangerous consequences.

Macron showered praise on U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who quit in the wake of Trump's unexpected move. "An ally should be reliable, coordinate with other allies. Mattis understood this," Macron said during a trip to Chad.

Macron said that the troop withdrawal endangers Kurdish fighters, who were instrumental in the U.S.-led coalition's fight against IS militants.

"We should not forget ... what we owe to those who died on the ground fighting terrorism," he said, referring to the SDF. "The SDF is fighting against the terrorism that fomented attacks against Paris and elsewhere ... I call on everyone not to forget what they have done." □

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Saudi prince who called for reforms dies at 87

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Prayers were held Sunday for Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, a senior member of the royal family who supported women's rights and once led a group of dissident princes, who died at the age of 87.

Prince Talal was an older brother to King Salman and the father of businessman Prince Alwaleed bin Talal. He is the son of the founder and first ruler of modern Saudi Arabia, the late King Abdulaziz, whose sons have ruled since his death, with the throne passing from brother to brother.

Prince Talal's son Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal announced on Twitter that his father passed away on Saturday. The royal court



In this Feb. 24, 2010 file photo, Saudi Prince Talal bin Abdelaziz, left, receives Queen Rania of Jordan during the opening ceremony of the Arab Open University, Jordan branch, in Amman, Jordan.

also released a statement about his passing.

Prince Talal served as minister of communications in the 1950s and minister of finance in the early

1960s. In 1957, Prince Talal founded the first school for girls in Riyadh, according to the Saudi newspaper Arab News. The school was founded at a time when

females had no access to formal education in the landlocked capital and schools were open to boys only.

Soon after he was appointed finance minister, he struck out and led a group of princes who called for a constitutional monarchy that distributes some of the king's powers. The royals, who became known as the Free Princes Movement, called for a constitution to govern the kingdom, rather than rules based solely on clerical interpretation of the Quran and other religious doctrine.

Prince Talal led the group from Beirut and Cairo, which under then Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser was an adversary of Riyadh. The prince's assets

were seized by Riyadh, but he was not stripped of his nationality—a punishment Gulf monarchies have employed against dissidents. After rifts emerged between Prince Talal and Cairo, he was allowed to return to Saudi Arabia in 1964 under King Faisal, who had deposed his brother King Saud that same year. Prince Talal served until 2011 as a member of the Allegiance Council, a body of senior princes who are meant to meet and choose the next king from among themselves. He'd reportedly left the council after questioning its efficacy when a senior prince was appointed to the line of succession without the council being fully consulted. □

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Russia: Criminal probe opened in mine fire that killed 9



In this video grab provided by RU-RTR Russian television via AP television, Russian rescue team wait for a elevator to go down into the mine potash mine in Solikamsk, the Perm region near the Ural Mountains, Russia, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Rescue teams on Sunday found the bodies of nine construction workers who were trapped inside a burning potash mine in Russia's Ural Mountains, while Russian officials opened a criminal investigation of the accident.

A fire erupted Saturday at the mine operated by

fertilizer company Uralkali in the Perm region east of Moscow. Uralkali said two teams of workers were doing maintenance work in the mine and operations had been suspended while they labored.

Officials said 17 construction workers were in when the fire broke out and eight of them were quickly evac-

uated. The blaze cut off access to nine other workers who were in a different section.

Russian news agencies quoted the rescue operation's headquarters as saying the rescue was refocused as an effort to recover the men's bodies. Seven bodies had been removed from the mine by Sunday evening.

The workers were trapped 364 meters (1,200 feet) underground, and it took several attempts before searchers could safely reach the site. Firefighters were unable to extinguish the blaze for more than 36 hours. The Perm region declared Monday a day of mourning for the workers who died at the mine in Solikamsk, which is located 1,200 kilometers (740 miles) east of Moscow. □



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Cuban assembly approves draft of new constitution

By **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**
MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba's National Assembly on Saturday approved an update of the country's constitution, the final step before a national referendum expected to approve the new charter in February.

The new constitution contains more continuity than change, although it recognizes the de-facto modernization of Cuban society over the last decade. The constitution maintains Cuba as a centrally planned economy ruled by a single Communist Party, but recognizes private property for the first time and paves the way for a separate referendum on legalizing gay marriage. It also creates the role of prime minister alongside the current president, as well as provincial governors.

Cuba's former President Raul Castro, center, votes during a session to debate the draft of a new Constitution, at the Convention Palace in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Dec. 21, 2018.

Legalizing private property is a formal recognition of significant change in Cuban society since former President Raul Castro permitted home and auto sales, creating a booming real-estate market, and allowed more than half a million Cubans have permits to work as entrepreneurs. Hundreds of thousands more work full or part-time

in the private sector without licenses. The new constitution also recognizes worker-owned cooperatives for the first time as a legal form of production in every sector of the economy, while maintaining Cuba's largely inefficient and stagnant state-run industries as the central means of production. Closing the National As-

sembly, President Miguel Diaz-Canel said the island's economic challenges — including a weak 1.2 percent 2018 growth rate, and similar growth expected next year — required the acceptance of private business, joint public-private ventures and coops working together. He promised to fight widespread public-sector embezzlement and corruption that makes it virtually impossible to get anything done in Cuba without a series of small bribes.

"We've called a battle, and we'll wage it, an ethical battle against corruption, illegality ... and social indiscipline," he said. The president also promised a more responsive government, part of an initiative that has seen almost all Cuba's head of ministries start social-media accounts for the first time, some of which take questions from citizens.

"There are a lot of questions to pay attention and respond to," Diaz-Canel said. "We'll give responses to all of them as soon as it's possible, and those that we don't have an answer to for the moment, we'll never stop searching."

He did not mention Cuba's unique two-currency system, which creates inefficiencies and distortions that are seen as one of the island's most serious economic problems. Castro called monetary unification an urgent priority before stepping down in April, but the issue has barely been mentioned since Diaz-Canel took over.

The degree to which the new constitution will actually spur change is expected to be seen only after the National Assembly approves a raft of changes to the civil and penal codes and electoral laws next year. □

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Tsunami hits without warning in Indonesia, killing over 220

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

CARITA BEACH, Indonesia

(AP) — The deadly tsunami struck in the dark, without warning.

At least 222 people were killed as waves smashed into houses, hotels and other beachside buildings Saturday night along Indonesia's Sunda Strait, in a disaster that followed an eruption and possible landslide on Anak Krakatau, one of the world's most infamous volcanic islands.

More than 800 others were injured and dozens were reported missing after the tsunami hit coastal areas along western Java and southern Sumatra islands at 9:27 p.m. Saturday amid a Christmas holiday weekend, the Disaster Management Agency said. The death toll could increase once authorities hear from all stricken areas.

It was the second deadly tsunami to hit Indonesia this year, but the one that killed more than 2,500 people on the island of Sulawesi on Sept. 28 was accompanied by a powerful earthquake that gave residents a brief warning before the waves struck.

On Saturday night, the ground did not shake beforehand to alert people to the oncoming wave that ripped buildings from their foundations in seconds and swept terrified concertgoers on a popular resort beach into the sea.

Azki Kurniawan, 16, said his first warning about the tsunami was when people burst into the lobby of the Patra Comfort Hotel shout-



Debris littered a property badly damaged by a tsunami in Carita, Indonesia, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018.

ing, "Sea water rising!"

Kurniawan, who was undergoing vocational training with a group of 30 other students, said he was confused because he had not felt a big earthquake. He said he ran to the parking lot to try to reach his motorbike but discovered it was already flooded.

"Suddenly, a 1-meter (3.3-foot) wave hit me," he said, his eyes red and swollen from crying. "I was thrown into the fence of a building about 30 meters (100 feet) from the beach and held onto the fence as strong as I could, trying to resist the water, which felt like it would drag me back into the sea. I cried in fear ... 'This is a tsunami?' I was afraid I would die."

Dramatic video posted on social media showed the Indonesian pop band Seventeen performing under

a tent on popular Tanjung Lesung beach at a concert for employees of a state-owned electricity company. Dozens of people sat at tables while others swayed to the music near the stage as strobe lights flashed and theatrical smoke was released. A child could also be seen wandering through the crowd.

Seconds later, with the drummer pounding just as the next song was about to begin, the stage suddenly heaved forward and buckled under the force of the water, tossing the band and its equipment into the audience.

The group released a statement saying their bass player, guitarist and road manager were killed, while two other band members and the wife of one of the performers were missing.

"The tide rose to the sur-

face and dragged all the people on site," the statement said. "Unfortunately, when the current receded, our members were unable to save themselves while some did not find a place to hold on."

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said 222 deaths had been confirmed and at least 843 people were injured.

The worst-affected area was the Pandeglang region of Java's Banten province, which encompasses Ujung Kulon National Park and popular beaches, the agency said.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo expressed his sympathy and ordered government agencies to respond quickly to the disaster.

"My deep condolences to the victims in Banten and

Lampung provinces," he said. "Hopefully, those who are left have patience."

Trump tweeted support for Indonesia: "We are praying for recovery and healing. America is with you!"

In the city of Bandar Lampung on Sumatra, hundreds of residents took refuge at the governor's office, while at the popular resort area of Anyer beach on Java, some survivors wandered in the debris.

Tourists who were enjoying the long holiday weekend ahead of Christmas were also affected.

"I had to run, as the wave passed the beach and landed 15-20m (meters, or 50-65 feet) inland," said Norwegian Oystein Lund Andersen, in a Facebook post. The self-described photographer and volcano enthusiast said he was taking pictures of the volcano when he suddenly saw the water racing toward him. He and his family fled safely to higher ground.

The damage became apparent after daybreak Sunday. Nine hotels and hundreds of homes were heavily damaged by the waves. Broken chunks of concrete and splintered sticks of wood littered hard-hit coastal areas, turning beach getaways popular with Jakarta residents into near ghost towns. Vehicles were tossed into the rubble or were buried under collapsed roofs. Debris from thatch-bamboo shacks was strewn along beaches. Yellow, orange and black body bags were laid out, and weeping relatives identified the dead. □



Busy Bee

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Bee is the Membership and Reservations Coordinator, working already 26 years for the resort. "I remember my first working day, it was September 7th in 1992. I started as a telephone operator, after I became a front desk cashier, then I moved to the accounting department and I also did the concierge services which I liked very much due to the fact that I got to work with a lot of guests. Currently I am taking care of room reservations."

What's In A Day

Bee explains that Monday, but also Friday, are the busiest days. "My days start with checking the list of the guests that checked in and also the no shows. I do that with the front desk and we go through the check ins of the day as well. Our resort is a time share resort running from Saturday to Saturday. Every day we do have rentals coming in, booked online through Booking.com or the resort link. For that I have to prepare everything." Bee prints out a daily guest list and reviews the room bills and the authorizations. Besides that there might be room changes that need a follow up. "This time of the year until March-April is the busiest period within the resort, I love it as time flies and there is an energetic buzz going around."



Grateful

Bee likes to see 'her guests', they often step into her office to talk and connect. "Just for a chat, a smile, a hello. It's that special family ambiance we have here." Through all those years Bee has been working at Casa del Mar Beach Resort & Timeshare she knows most of the faces and the names of the guests and she just loves that. "Casa del Mar is not my first job, I worked at bigger hotels, but I like the intimacy and personal touch here. I am grateful for my job, this is my income and important to me and my family. Therefore I appreciate our guests a lot as without them I would not be able to do this." □



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PALM BEACH — Feeling sick is a miserable thing during vacation. This is the time of the year you should enjoy and relax, so staying in a hotel room bed with a sunstroke, skin allergy, ear infection or intestinal problems can be a bummer. The best thing to do is to recover as soon as possible, and Dr. Lili Beke of the Aruba Walk-in Clinic, together with Palm Beach Service Pharmacy are a one-stop-shopping solution.

A Walk-In Clinic to Walk To

First of all she is calm, kind and understanding. Personal touch is her trade mark and with more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor she knows what's going on. Doctor Beke is located in Palm Beach, at the door steps of the hotel area and her clinic is appropriately named the Aruba Walk-In Clinic. "I'd like to put myself in the shoes of the visitor. Being in a strange place, sometimes far from family or even alone and feeling sick. You can feel lost



and disorientated. I can understand that and try to give them comprehension and a welcome feeling while examining them. So they leave with a smile, even if they feel a bit sick." The doctor speaks seven languages: English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Papiamentu, meaning she can attend to almost any tourist from all over the world. "You can come in without an appointment and we have an emergency number that works 24/7, if necessary I will visit the patient where he/she is staying. We attend patients every day!" Her philosophy is as follows: As long as you enjoy what you are doing and like to help people, this profession is very rewarding." It sounds like the perfect place to heal.

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singer Angela Baidez. Bohemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.

From 8 PM on Wednesday Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of




Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live music in an intimate, hip and offbeat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner of

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For today's newspaper we received a great picture from St Angelo Family. They wrote: "Aruba to Us is home away from home. We are from Maryland and we have been coming to Aruba since 1982. Our family comes for Christmas every year. We love that the same employees & families



are here every year. We correspond with them over the year and it's like a family reunion when we arrive. People who try Christmas in Aruba comes back year after year. It's a beautiful place to spend special time with family". □

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Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



The Aruban Ayaca (Hallaca)



It's our tradition to make 'ayaca' as part of the Holiday celebration. The ayaca is a Venezuelan dish that moved into our island of Aruba. The word hallaca evolved from the indigenous Guarani Language meaning "to mix or blend". We get together as family at a big table in our kitchen, listen to Gaita music when we all as family make the ayaca. It consists of corn dough stuffed with stew chicken, meat or pork, olives, onions, raisins, green/red pepper, almonds and other ingredient depends on the family tradition. In our family we come together the 24th in the evening and will eat together as family with our neighbors and friends. This year our oldest son Siegal came home from Holland for the holidays and brought his Dutch girlfriend Iris. This is a picture of the ayaca's we made as family two days ago and the ayaca's can be seen left down in the picture.

Traditional house at Babijn



The Dutch architecture can be seen all over our island. Since 1634 you can trace back the Dutch architecture influence on our island and this is visible in this house design. Located at Babijn on the road to the Natural Bridge.

Boca Grandi Beach



This beach is superb for kite surfing and if you have a chance to visit it on Sundays you will see a colorful sky full of kite surfers. The wind and angle of this beach is just perfect for this kind of sports. Kite surfing is a kind of a community/buddy sport and is for sure a good chance to learn a new water sport. Boca Grandi is on your left when you are in front of the red anchor on your way to Baby Beach.

2 tips for creating a romantic feel in your vacation pictures



As a photographer I always strive to have a feeling in the pictures I take. So when someone sees a picture you can ask them, "How do you feel looking at the picture" and not "what do you see in the picture"!! You can do this too for your own vacation pictures. First use the hands to touch the other in a very soft manner. Secondly position yourself not seeing at the camera and look at each other. This picture is from a photo shoot I did last week with the amazing couple Brian and Jennifer.

SPORTS



Scandal and justice: #MeToo reached the sports world in 2018

By **WILL GRAVES**, AP Sports Writer

One by one they came forward, more than 150 in all. Fearful yet defiant. Vulnerable but resolute, buoyed by the hope of catharsis and the promise of justice. Standing in a Michigan courtroom last January, women and girls sexually abused by Larry Nassar confronted the former Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics doctor, and over seven draining days detailed the devastating effect the molestation had on their lives. The #MeToo movement reached the sports world in 2018 with a scandal that reverberated not just in locker rooms and gyms but in courthouses, in boardrooms and at kitchen tables. The sight of women being not just heard but believed — combined with other breakthroughs for female athletes in the fight for fair treatment — created a sense of real momentum in sports over the past year.

Female athletes "are taking control, and that's what it's all about," tennis star Serena Williams said. "Taking control of who you are."

While 2017 brought the downfall of TV personalities Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose and Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, a scandal in the sports world that had been brewing for a few years blew up in 2018 into shocking front-page news.

Continued on Page 22

SENT PACKING



Green Bay rallies to be the Jets 44-38 in overtime

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Davante Adams (17) makes game-winning touchdown catch in front of New York Jets cornerback Morris Claiborne during overtime of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Packers won 44-38 in overtime.

Associated Press
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Alex Len, Vince Carter lift Hawks over Pistons 98-95



Atlanta Hawks guard Jeremy Lin, right, defends against a shot by Detroit Pistons forward Stanley Johnson, left, during the first half on an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in Detroit.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Alex Len had 15 points and a season-high 17 rebounds, Vince Carter had a season-best 18 points, and the Atlanta Hawks held off the Detroit Pistons 98-95 on Sunday.

The Hawks won their third straight and improved to 9-23. Kent Bazemore scored 13 points, and Trae Young had 12.

Detroit has lost nine of 11. Langston Galloway led the Pistons with 18, and Andre Drummond had 13 points and 15 rebounds.

Detroit's Blake Griffin missed two free throws with 23 seconds left to keep Atlanta ahead 92-91.

Jeremy Lin hit two foul shots to stretch the lead, Reggie Jackson dunked for the Pistons, and Lin hit two more free throws to make it 96-

93. Galloway missed a layup, and the Hawks locked it up from the line.

Carter had 14 points in the first half while Atlanta led by as many as 17. A late 3-pointer by Griffin helped the Pistons to narrow the margin to 57-43 at the break. Atlanta outshot Detroit 51.3 percent to 43.9 percent and got 13 points off 11 turnovers.

The Pistons got within nine early in the third, but back-

to-back tip-ins by Len kept the Hawks comfortably ahead.

Galloway hit back-to-back 3-pointers to pull the Pistons within 83-75 with 8:55 to play. He was the only Piston to score in the first 6:16 of the quarter, but his 14 points narrowed the gap to 85-80.

Zaza Pachulia's tip made it 88-85 with 3:17 left, and two free throws by Griffin

got the Pistons within one.

Carter answered with a fall-away basket, but Galloway scored over Len to make it 90-89. After misses on both ends, Lin's reverse layup put the Hawks up three with 1:22 to play.

Jackson's free throws cut the lead to 92-91 and Pachulia stole the ball from Lin, but Griffin couldn't hit the ensuing shots from the line.

TIP-INS

Hawks: The Hawks had lost six of eight to Detroit but posted their first victory at Little Caesars Arena.

Pistons: Detroit is third in the NBA in offensive rebounds, mostly thanks to Drummond, but only had five to Atlanta's 15 on Sunday. ... Luke Kennard started at small forward but sat out the second half with both knees wrapped in ice. □



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Rodgers leads Packers to wild 44-38 overtime win over Jets

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Pro Football Writer
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— Aaron Rodgers threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams with 6:23 left in overtime, leading the Green Bay Packers to a wild 44-38 victory over the New York Jets on Sunday. The victory was the Packers' first on the road this season — snapping a nine-game skid away from Lambeau Field dating to last season — and it prevented them from becoming the first Green Bay squad since 1958 to go an entire season without a win away from home.

And this one was all on Rodgers, who was masterful in the fourth quarter and the overtime period for the Packers (6-8-1). He threw for 442 yards and two touchdowns, and also ran for two scores.

The loss for the Jets (4-11) overshadowed a dazzling performance by rookie quarterback Sam Darnold, who threw for a career-high 341 yards with three touchdowns — but never got a chance with the ball



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) is tackled by New York Jets strong safety Jamal Adams (33) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

in overtime. It was likely the final home game for coach Todd Bowles, who is expected to be fired after next week's game at New England. The Jets

were done in by penalties, getting called for a whopping 16 that cost them 172 yards. Bowles was critical of the officiating crew, saying some of the calls against

New York shouldn't have happened. After the Packers won the OT toss and elected to receive, Rodgers took over — as he has so many times throughout his career. On third-and-10 from the Packers' 40, Rodgers got hit as he was throwing and his pass to Marquez Valdes-Scantling hung in the air and fell incomplete — but Trumaine Johnson was called for pass interference, putting the ball at the Jets' 27. Moments later, a pass interference call on Buster Skrine gave the Packers the ball at the 6. Rodgers ran it in — but right tackle Bryan Bulaga was called for holding. On the next play, Rodgers found Adams in the back of the end zone for the victory.

That all came after Rodgers went over a pile and reached past the goal line for a go-ahead 1-yard touchdown with 1:13 left in regulation, giving Green Bay its first lead of the game. Rodgers then ran it in for the 2-point conversion to make it 38-35, finishing off a terrific drive during that included a 23-yard run to get the ball to the 1. Andre Roberts, selected to his first Pro Bowl earlier in the week, returned the ensuing kickoff 51 yards to put the Jets in good shape. Darnold completed passes of 9 and 14 yards to get the Jets to the Green Bay 15. But three straight passes fell incomplete and New York settled for a tying 33-yard field goal by Jason Myers with 17 seconds left in regulation. Rodgers took a knee, sending it to overtime. Darnold was 24 of 35 passing with TDs to Robby Anderson, Chris Herndon and Elijah McGuire, who also ran for a score.

With the Jets leading by one, Darnold marched New York down the field on its first possession of the second half to stretch the lead to 28-20 on a 5-yard TD pass to a wide-open Herndon with 4:21 remaining in the third quarter. New York's special teams unit then came up big when Anthony Wint — just promoted from the

practice squad — forced J'Mon Moore to fumble and Rashard Robinson recovered for the Jets at the Packers' 18. Three plays later, Darnold tossed a short pass to McGuire, who took off to the outside and scampered down the sideline into the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown that made it 35-20 with 3:50 left in the third quarter.

Mason Crosby's 38-yard field goal cut the Packers' deficit to 12 with 11:45 remaining in the game.

Rodgers' 1-yard run with 6:32 left made it 35-30, capping a drive that was helped by consecutive pass interference penalties on Skrine and Jamal Adams to get the ball down to the 1.

SPECIAL SPECIAL TEAMS

Roberts returned a kickoff 99 yards for a score late in the first half, the second of his career, to highlight a solid outing by New York's special teams unit.

Rontez Miles took a direct snap on a punt on fourth-and-1 from the Jets' 31 in the fourth quarter and ran up the middle for 4 yards and a first down. Wint also had the forced fumble earlier in the game.

The one hiccup came on the opening drive of the game, when Jason Myers — picked for his first Pro Bowl — was wide left on a 45-yard attempt.

LEO LOSES COOL

During a 14-yard reception by Equanimeous St. Brown late in the first half, Bulaga and Jets defensive end Leonard Williams got into a shoving match — and Williams was ejected for throwing a punch. That gave the Packers the ball at the Jets' 7.

Jamaal Williams took the ensuing handoff, cut down the left sideline and was hit by Jamal Adams. But he stayed in bounds and stretched his body — and the ball — over the goal line for a TD that made it 21-14 with 1:33 left.

INJURIES

Packers: LG Lane Taylor hurt a knee in the first quarter. ... CB Jaire Alexander injured his groin in the first half and didn't return. □

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Blue Jackets blank Devils for 4th straight win



Columbus Blue Jackets' Cam Atkinson (13) celebrates scoring a goal with Blue Jackets' Artemi Panarin against the New Jersey Devils during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in Newark, N.J.

By MATT SUGAM

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — When Taylor Hall was asked in the offseason who is the toughest goalie to play against, he'd say Sergei Bobrovsky. Maybe he's just that for the Devils, or maybe he actually is. This season, it's been a combination of both.

Bobrovsky made 39 saves, Artemi Panarin had a goal and an assist, and the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the New Jersey Devils 3-0 on Sunday for their fourth consecutive victory.

It was the second shutout of the season for Bobrovsky, the 26th of his career and third against the Devils.

"I don't know if it's just like us he plays like that," Hall said.

"You have to have perfect shots and it doesn't seem like any goal is ever his fault. He's either getting screened or a backdoor tap or whatever. Like you said, we had some really

Associated Press

good chances. Sustained pressure, second chances, chances in tight. I don't know what there is to do other than that."

Cam Atkinson and Oliver Bjorkstrand added first-period goals for the Blue Jackets, who trail first-place Washington by two points in the Metropolitan Division going into the league's holiday break.

"It's always good to get the first one, especially in the away barn," Atkinson said. "We knew we'd see their best and to feel good right away, it's good for us. We can enjoy this and get a little bit of a rest here and be ready for the Rangers." Atkinson opened the scoring at 4:03 of the first period on the Blue Jackets' first shot of the game when he took a pass from Panarin and sent it past Devils goalie Keith Kinkaid for his 23rd goal of the season.

Bjorkstrand made it 2-0 just 1:28 later when he con-

verted a pass from Alexander Wennberg for his fourth goal of the season.

Kinkaid gave up a fast-break goal by Panarin to put the Blue Jackets up 3-0 midway through the second period.

Panarin stole the puck from Taylor Hall in the neutral zone, and the goal got Kinkaid (eight saves) pulled for Mackenzie Blackwood.

The Devils had a two-man

advantage late in the second period but were unable to score.

Their victory win Friday — which included a five-goal outburst — was just their fourth in their last 17 games. Blackwood had nine saves in a period and a half of play on Sunday.

"He played well the first game and he came in and he played pretty well and he's going to get some seri-

ous looks here after break," Devils coach John Hynes said.

NOTES: The Blue Jackets also beat the Devils last Thursday in Columbus. ... The Devils wore their heritage jerseys. ... Stefan Noesen, Egor Yakovlev and Mirco Mueller were scratches for the Devils while Sonny Milano, Dean Kukan and Lukas Sedlak were scratches for the Blue Jackets. □

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Continued from Page 18

Nassar was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison in a case that has had widespread and devastating fallout. Michigan State agreed to settle victims' lawsuits for \$500 million. The university president lost her job and was charged with lying to police. Others at the school or at gymnastics' national governing body, USA Gymnastics, also face charges. And the future of the organization is in limbo.

Jordyn Wieber, a member of the gold-medal 2012 Olympic gymnastics team, planned to detail her allegations against Nassar quietly in a lawsuit. Yet as she watched other victims share the most difficult memories of their lives in open court, with their tormentor 20 feet away and a TV camera broadcasting it to the world, Wieber decided to testify, too.

"I saw this effect and this power we as Olympians had by using our voice," the 23-year-old Wieber told The Associated Press. "I felt really responsible to do that. If I could do one small thing in the world of gymnastics, the world of sports, this was it. I knew it wasn't going to be easy, but I felt like it was worth it."

The young women also

played a role in trying to hold USA Gymnastics and other organizations accountable for the way Nassar's abuse went unchecked for decades.

When USA Gymnastics continued to use the Karolyi Ranch training center in Texas even after victims told of how they were abused by Nassar there, reigning Olympic champion and Nassar victim Simone Biles went on Twitter to ask why. The organization announced almost immediately it was leaving the facility.

Biles took then-USA Gymnastics president Kerry Perry to task in August for not speaking up to outline a way forward for the embattled organization. Perry resigned less than a month later.

"The fact Simone is able to effect the amount of change she's been able to is a testament that athletes are starting to have a little bit of power," said former gymnast Rachael Denhollander, who filed a criminal complaint against Nassar in 2016.

The year 2018 also saw the swift downfall of former Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson — who sold the team and was fined \$2.75 million by the NFL after he was accused of sexual harassment — and the contin-



In this Jan. 19, 2018, file photo, Morgan McCaul gets hugs from other survivors after making her victim impact statement about Larry Nassar in the court of Judge Rosemarie Aquilina in Lansing, Mich.

ued pursuit of equal treatment of women in sports like tennis and soccer.

The French Open angered some in May when it declined to seed three-time winner Williams following a 14-month break from tennis in which she gave birth to a daughter. Last week, the women's tennis tour announced that starting in 2019, players coming off maternity leave or major injury may use a special ranking for up to three years upon their return.

"Serena is mainly responsible for bringing that issue to the forefront: Should you be treated the same

for pregnancy as you are if you miss time with an injury?" tennis Hall of Famer Chris Evert said. The new rule "obviously was an advancement in the women's game."

The push by female athletes to transform their sports wasn't limited to the U.S.

The South Korean women's curling team that won a surprise silver at the 2018 Olympics came forward in November to complain of verbal and psychological abuse by their handlers, a pattern that included withholding prize money and threatening to bench the

Associated Press

captain after learning she wanted to start a family. The handlers admitted to some of the allegations but denied others while resigning under pressure this month.

And members of Argentina's women's soccer team used social media to express mounting frustration over unequal treatment, including being barred from the training complex traditionally reserved for the men and receiving minimal financial support. Argentine soccer officials relented, allowing the women to work out at the same facility as the men. □

Dutch player, coach Frank de Boer takes over Atlanta United



In this July 22, 2017 file photo, Frank de Boer, manager of Crystal Palace FC, shouts during the third place playoff match against West Bromwich Albion FC at the Premier League Asia Trophy soccer tournament in Hong Kong.

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Frank de Boer, who appeared in two World Cups for the Netherlands during an illustrious playing career and went on to capture four straight league titles as Ajax coach, is taking over at Atlanta United. The Major League Soccer champions announced the coaching hire Sunday, with plans for a formal introduction after the holidays. The 48-year-old de Boer agreed to a multiyear contract to replace Tata Martino, who left Atlanta after two seasons amid reports that he is taking over as coach of the Mexican national team. De Boer takes over a club that won the MLS Cup in just its second

season and set numerous attendance records, averaging more than 53,000 per game. United returns to action in February, making its first appearance in the CONCACAF Champions League, before the start of the MLS season in March. "I would like to build on the current success to develop a secure, solid foundation for the club at the top of MLS and beyond," de Boer said in a statement. "Aside from the club's ambitions, the values, culture and the philosophy for the entire organization are a vital part in realizing that point of success. This is exactly what I believe in as a person and as a coach. All of this com-

bined, makes that I am really excited to be a part of it." De Boer is looking to revive his coaching career after getting fired from his two previous jobs. In 2016, he took over at Internazionale in Italy's Serie A but was dumped after less than three months on the job with the club mired in 12th place. The following year, de Boer had an even shorter stint at England's Crystal Palace, getting sacked after the team lost its first four Premier League games without scoring a goal. Atlanta United is counting on its new manager to carry on the attacking style that worked so well under Martino. □

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Jermall Charlo keeps title, twin Jermell loses his

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jermall Charlo had every reason to be distracted when he entered the ring to defend his WBC interim middleweight championship.

Minutes before his bout with Matt Korobov, Jermall's twin, Jermell, lost a unanimous decision to Tony Harrison, costing Jermell his WBC super welterweight crown. It was a new experience for both Charlос, who entered Saturday night unbeaten.

Jermall (28-0) kept up the family name with a one-sided 12-round victory over the game but outclassed Korobov (27-2).

"I felt like Jermell made his fight harder than it was," he said. "I had a really tough opponent, but he wasn't better than me. There was a lot on my mind in the ring."

Jermall was emphatic at the finish — perhaps to erase any doubt with this set of judges. He staggered Korobov in the middle of the 12th round, and they slugged it out pretty much until the finish.

Jermall Charlo won 119-108 on one card, 116-112 on the other two.

The AP had it 117-111 for Charlo over Korobov, who was subbing for Willie Monroe Jr. after Monroe failed a drug test.

"I haven't been that far in a fight in a couple of years. It felt good to be in there, get hit and bang with someone," Jermall added. "He was an experienced guy who will make me better."

Earlier, Harrison withstood a late surge by Jermell Charlo to take his title in a



Tony Harrison, left, punches Jermell Charlo during the first round of the WBC super welterweight championship boxing match Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, in New York. Harrison won the fight.

Associated Press

unanimous decision that drew heavy boos from the crowd of 9,177 at Barclays Center.

When the verdict was announced, Harrison leaped around the ring in celebration while Charlo stood in disbelief. Soon after, Charlo broke into Harrison's interview on Fox to say "You know I won this fight."

Not according to judges Julie Lederman and Ron McNair, who had it 115-113 for Harrison. Robin Taylor scored it 116-112 for the winner.

The AP had it 115-113 for Charlo.

"I got back to my corner after every round," Harrison said. "They told me to just

keep doing what you're doing. You're dictating the pace. I dictated the pace. That's what champions do. Champions don't just try to knock people out. That's all he wanted to do. I dictated it. I used my jab. I dictated the fight. That's what champions do."

Both fighters missed dozens of punches, but they also landed some sharp ones through the 12 rounds. Charlo connected with more efficiency, and he staggered Harrison toward the end of the fight.

But it was Harrison who was standing with the belt at the end.

"They took that fight from me," Charlo said. "I was

pressing the action. He didn't win that fight. I'm going to get my belts back." Harrison said he would give Charlo a rematch.

"He's a great champion," Harrison said. "I've seen him in the gym, he's a hell of a champion. I used my ring generalship."

"Jermell, you gave me a shot, I'll give you a rematch."

For his fourth defense of the title he won by knocking out John Jackson in May 2016, Charlo, 153 1/2 pounds, entered the ring in a black robe with a lion's head. Harrison wasn't outdone in the costume department, though, sporting and orange-and-black swirled

pattern on his warmup suit, with his name and No. 7 on the back. He also was wearing eyeglasses and a bandanna.

After the victory, he was wearing a huge smile that didn't fade even as the fans voiced their displeasure.

Now 28-2, Harrison lost his previous attempt for a title to Jarrett Hurd for the IBF crown in 2017.

Charlo is 31-1.

Dominic Breazeale used a monstrous right hand to knock out Carlos Negron in an action-filled heavyweight fight. Neither had fought in more than a year, but there was little rustiness once Breazeale got going after Negron controlled the early rounds.

Negron frequently landed left leads and had Breazeale off-balance early. But he also was hit enough to bleed under the left eye and from the nose. Then Breazeale took charge, and the knockout punch sent Negron partially through the ropes.

Breazeale, 33, has lost once, to Anthony Joshua for the IBF heavyweight crown 2 1-2 years ago. He's hoping to get back into the championship picture as a WBC mandatory contender for Deontay Wilder's belt. Wilder was at ringside to see Breazeale improve to 20-1 with 18 knockouts.

"I'm next in line for Deontay Wilder, I'm coming for him," said Breazeale, who outweighed Negron, 30, by 30 1-2 pounds.

"I've been waiting for him and I did what I had to do. I'm ready for him now."

Negron fell to 20-2. Both are former Olympians. □

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Connected cars accelerate down data-collection highway

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— That holiday trip over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house could turn into nice little gift for automakers as they increasingly collect oodles and oodles of data about the driver.

Automakers are collecting valuable pieces of information thanks to the internet connections, cameras and sensors built into most vehicles in recent years. The on-line access makes it possible for cars to be unlocked remotely if the keys are lost. It's how safety features can be upgraded wirelessly and maintenance schedules adjusted based on performance.

But these digital peepholes are also offering a windshield-size view of people's lives. That's creating the potential for intrusive marketing pitches and government surveillance.

No serious incidents have occurred in the United States, Europe and Japan, but a red flag has already been raised in China, where automakers have been sharing location details of connected cars with the government.

"We are not that far away from when 100 percent of all new cars will come equipped with data modems," Navigant Research analyst Sam Abuelsamid predicted. "Having the potential to collect more data about people in their cars means there is going to be potential for abuses, too." Here are some key questions about the auto industry's acceleration down the data-collection highway:

Q: What kind of cars collect data?

A: In 2016, about one in every five cars sold globally



In this April 22, 2014, file photo, a worker cleans a Tesla Model S sedan before an event to deliver the first set of cars to customers in Beijing.

could be plugged into the internet, according to BI Intelligence. By 2020, about three out of every four cars sold will be online.

So if you are driving a 2009 Toyota Corolla, you probably only have to worry about the tracking and data collection being done by the smartphone resting on the cup holder. But as those older models go to the scrapyard, it will become difficult to avoid a vehicle set up for gathering data that will be sent to automakers.

Q: Which automakers are leading the way in this trend?

A: General Motors accounted for 46 percent of connected-car shipments last year, according to the market research firm Counterpoint. They're followed by BMW (20 percent), Audi (14 percent) and Mercedes-Benz (13 percent). In addition, Tesla's Model S sold since 2012 all come with connectivity. The firm said the biggest markets for

connected car sales last year were China (32 percent), the United States (13 percent), Germany (11 percent) and the United Kingdom (9 percent).

Q: Do I own data that's collected?

A: Under U.S. law, it's unclear.

Drivers own the data stored in the "black boxes" that monitor vehicles in a crash. Police and insurers need a driver's consent — or a court order — to get that data. But there are no laws addressing data collected by automakers through vehicle internet connections. So far, few automakers will share their data in the United States without the owners' consent, Abuelsamid said. Twenty companies — including GM, Toyota, Ford, Hyundai and Mercedes-Benz — signed a voluntary agreement in 2014 to get permission before sharing a driver's location, health or behavior with third parties. The agreement doesn't require approval from drivers

for data to be shared with emergency workers or for internal research.

One of the most notable exceptions is electric car maker Tesla Motors, which has released data publicly to reveal — sometimes within hours of a crash — how fast a driver was traveling and whether the company's semi-autonomous Autopilot system was engaged after a collision.

Q: In what ways are automakers passing along data when drivers allow it to be shared?

A: They're giving the data to insurers to determine the premiums that should be charged, if a driver consents. This could be good if data indicates drivers are cautious, adhere to speed limits and seldom log lots of miles. But insurance premiums could jump for drivers who are prone to speeding or frequent hard braking — all of which could be interpreted as raising the risks for accidents. Insurers would also know whether

your seat belt is fastened.
Q: Can I stop an automaker from collecting my data?

A: Most automakers let owners decline, or opt out of, data collection, but that's usually buried in the fine print. Otherwise, permission is assumed. Also, unlike smartphones, some data collection may be required to ensure that cars operate safely and can receive essential software updates. That's especially true as more vehicles come with features such as semi-autonomous driving. And it could be necessary in order to have self-driving vehicles. **Q:** Should I be worried about automakers using my data in ways that are annoying or compromise my privacy?

A: Probably, if what has happened with smartphones is a reliable gauge. As automakers collect more data about drivers, they're more likely to look for ways to profit. The built-in display screens and mapping software would seem to be ideal spots for posting advertisements, similar to what Google, Facebook, Amazon and many other internet companies already do.

The business consultancy McKinsey has estimated automotive data could be worth \$450 billion to \$750 billion worldwide by 2030. Ford Motor CEO Jim Hackett may have foreshadowed what's coming as he boasted in a recent interview about how much the automaker already knows about its customers who get their loans through its financial services division. All the lending information has allowed Ford to learn how much money people, where they live, where they live and whether they are married. □

Will stocks rise in 2019? Maybe, but it'll be stressful

By STAN CHOE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — No matter which way the stock market goes in 2019 — and Wall Street has ample arguments for either direction — expect it to be another gut-wrenching ride.

The market is facing a long list of challenges this upcoming year, from expectations for slower economic growth around the world to the restraining effect of rising interest rates. And the global trade war is still creating uncertainty as investors guess how much pain it will ultimately inflict.

All those risks have market strategists along Wall Street forecasting another turbulent year for stocks, and potentially one of the most difficult years for investors since the bull market began its record-setting run in 2009. That follows up on a 2018 where swings of hundreds of points within a single afternoon became fairly common for the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

As 2018 showed, higher risk doesn't always mean higher rewards. As of Friday, all major U.S. stock indexes are down more than 8 percent for the year. And many strategists are forecasting a subdued performance for stocks in 2019.

"Ironically ... one would expect higher returns with higher risk, but for the past two years we've underscored a slightly more treacherous environment for investors: higher risk and lower returns," Vanguard's global chief economist Joe Davis said as he unveiled his forecasts.

He expects global stock markets to return 4.5 percent to 6.5 percent annually over the next 10 years, in dollar terms, versus the 12.6 percent they had provided annually since the market's bottom following the 2008 financial crisis.

A quick glance at the titles of the 2019 outlook reports for various investment houses shows the increased caution. "The end of easy" was Wells Fargo Investment Institute's title. "Navigating volatile markets" was UBS



In this Nov. 28, 2018, file photo, a television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows a headline for the Dow Jones industrial average.

Asset Management's, and "Lower expectations" was Barclays'.

All the cross-currents pushing and pulling markets have analysts along Wall Street recommending a contrasting array of strategies. Some suggest focusing on stocks from emerging markets, where proponents say particularly sharp drops in price have left them looking cheap. Others say high-quality bonds look like the safest bet given all the expected turbulence. And some optimists are forecasting a big bounce-back year for U.S. stocks, which they say no longer look expensive relative to corporate earnings. As investments of all types dropped this year, investor psychology underwent a reset. For most of the last decade, markets powered higher in a largely smooth and gradual way. That meant big rewards for investors who saw any dip as an opportunity to buy at lower prices. The market recovered from every wobble to set records again and again, often quite quickly.

But this year has been different. The S&P 500 is down 9.6 percent and is on pace for its first down year in a decade after including dividends. It also created a lot of heartburn getting there, with two separate drops of 10 percent over the course of the year.

"This is the brave new world for investors," said Rich Weiss, chief investment officer of multi-asset strategies at American Century Investments. "It's been nine years, 10 years, so it's going to be a shock to some of the newer investors who were not around in 2008 or in prior market turns."

Of course, no forecast is perfect. A year ago, Wall Street was broadly optimistic about stocks and was forecasting moderate gains, largely because economies around the world were growing in sync. But the optimism fell apart as the year progressed and growth rates diverged, in part because of rising trade tensions.

Much will hinge on how resilient the U.S. economy remains in 2019. It has been accelerating since emerg-

ing from the Great Recession in 2009, and it got a big boost this past year from tax cuts, which helped corporate profits surge at their fastest rates in eight years. The current economic expansion will surpass the 1991-2001 stretch as the longest on record if the economy avoids a recession through July. In the economy's favor are the still-strong job market and consumer confidence.

But concerns are rising that a recession may be possible in 2020 or even the latter parts of 2019. The Federal Reserve is raising interest rates — it indicated two more increases may arrive in 2019 following four this year — and other central banks are stepping off the accelerator on stimulus for their economies, which remove big supports. And if inflation spikes unexpectedly higher, it could push the Fed to get more aggressive about raising rates, which would further hinder growth.

The International Monetary Fund expects U.S. economic growth to slow to 2.5 percent next year from

2.9 percent in 2018. It's also forecasting slower growth in the euro area, Japan and China.

Analysts are likewise forecasting a slowdown in U.S. corporate profit growth, though still positive. That's key because stock prices tend to track with corporate earnings over the long term.

Wall Street expects S&P 500 earnings growth to drop by more than half from this year's 20.3 percent rate, in part because companies will no longer be getting the boost of the first year of new tax rates, according to FactSet. But the expected 7.9 percent growth rate is still a good one this far into an economic expansion. □

Associated Press

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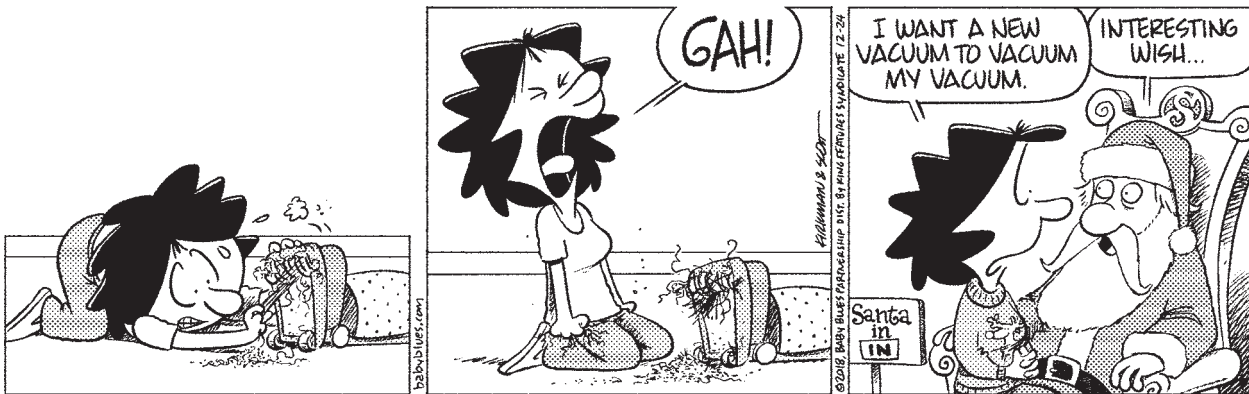
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			3		9			
	2	1	6		8	4	7	
7								6
4		9		2		8		5
	3	8				7	2	
5		2		4		3		9
3								7
	8	7	4		5	1	9	
			7		1			

Difficulty Level ★

12/24

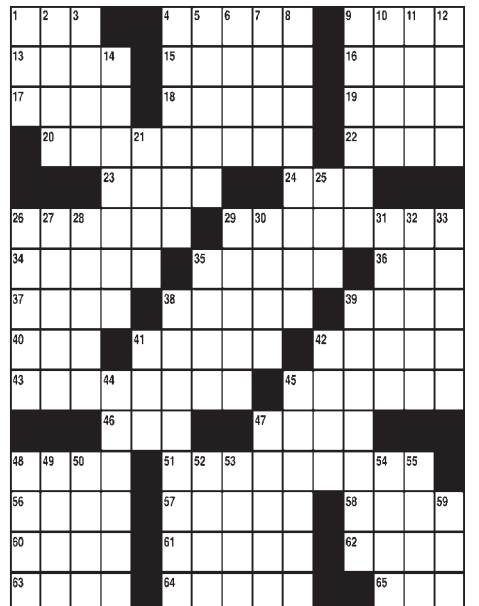
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

5	6	4	1	9	7	8	3	2
3	1	9	5	2	8	7	6	4
7	8	2	4	3	6	1	5	9
9	3	1	7	5	4	6	2	8
4	5	8	2	6	3	9	1	7
2	7	6	9	8	1	5	4	3
1	4	3	8	7	5	2	9	6
6	2	7	3	1	9	4	8	5
8	9	5	6	4	2	3	7	1

ACROSS

- Child's running game
- Bags
- Notice
- Goes public with companions
- Without
- Parakeet's home
- Cut coupons
- Primly self-restrained
- Bring on board
- Stringy pasta
- Small bills
- Close
- Pasture cry
- Meager
- Dreamer
- Patti and others
- Board
- Doris or Dennis
- Committed perjury
- Pass out
- Speak
- Actress/singer -Margret
- Vaccine developer - Salk
- Lake near Reno
- Fastened with a rope
- Bricklayers
- "... to a Nightingale"
- Extensive
- Wingless insect
- Getting smaller
- Equipment
- Breakfast side order
- Geological periods
- Difficult
- Upper crust
- Authentic
- Hostels
- Of the kidneys
- Pig's home



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/24/18

4 Strut about

- Modify
- Winter garment
- Make a sweater
- Residue
- Academy
- Reason to say "Ouch!"
- Bad guy
- Casual shirts, for short
- Reached from end to end
- Acquires
- Lawn tree
- Water balloon's sound
- Actor Michael
- Representative
- Epic by Homer
- Quayle & Marino
- Washington's neighbor
- Beautician's place
- Small children
- Rectangular piece of glass

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

COY	OF THE	STAB
ROSE	PRIED	TUBE
ACTS	PERISHABLE	
PAR	LOSER	EBSEN
AWASH	VAL	
DECIDE	CARESS	
EDIFY	BEANS	UPS
ADZE	GRADS	SPIN
DIE	ROARS	CAPRI
EDWARD	HAMLET	
IRE	PURSE	
PHONE	STAND	MAE
LIVERWURST	PEGS	
OVER	ACUTE	ONES
DENY	SHEER	ITS

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12/24/18

DOWN

- Tic-...toe
- Feels queasy
- Hold on to tightly

- Timberlands expert
- More delicious
- Elly May Clampett's pa
- Chore
- Is a pack rat
- Fireplace shelf
- Scenic view
- Encyc. volume, perhaps
- Slender
- Make money
- Opening
- Parade spoiler
- Negatives
- Flying insect
- Devious

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NASA's 1st flight to moon, Apollo 8, marks 50th anniversary

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— Fifty years ago on Christmas Eve, a tumultuous year of assassinations, riots and war drew to a close in heroic and hopeful fashion with the three Apollo 8 astronauts reading from the Book of Genesis on live TV as they orbited the moon. To this day, that 1968 mission is considered to be NASA's boldest and perhaps most dangerous undertaking. That first voyage by humans to another world set the stage for the still grander Apollo 11 moon landing seven months later.

There was unprecedented and unfathomable risk to putting three men atop a monstrous new rocket for the first time and sending them all the way to the moon. The mission was whipped together in just four months in order to reach the moon by year's end, before the Soviet Union. There was the Old Testament reading by commander Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders. Lastly, there was the photo named "Earthrise," showing our blue and white ball — humanity's home — rising above the bleak, gray lunar landscape and 240,000 miles (386 million kilometers) in the distance. Humans had never set eyes on the far side of the moon, or on our planet as a cosmic oasis, surrounded completely by the black void of space. A half-century later, only 24 U.S. astronauts who flew to the moon have witnessed these wondrous sights in person. The Apollo 8 crew is still around: Borman and Lovell are 90, Anders is 85.

To Lovell, the journey had the thrill and romance of true exploration, and pro-



This April 5, 2018 photo provided by the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago shows Apollo 8 astronauts, from left, William Anders, James Lovell, Frank Borman at the museum.

vided an uplifting cap for Americans to a painful, contentious year marked by the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, nationwide riots and protests of the Vietnam War.

The mission's impact was perhaps best summed up in a four-word telegram received by Borman. "Thanks, you saved 1968." NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine — who at age 43 missed Apollo — marvels over the gutsy decision in August that year to launch astronauts to the moon in four months' time. He's pushing for a return to the moon, but with real sustainability this next go-around. The space agency flipped missions and decided that instead of orbiting Earth, Borman and his crew would fly to the moon to beat the Soviets and pave the way for the lunar landings to come. And that was despite on its previous test flight, the Saturn V rocket lost parts and engines failed. "Even more worrisome than all

of this," Bridenstine noted earlier this month, Apollo 8 would be in orbit around the moon on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. "In other words, if there was a failure here, it would wreck Christmas not only for everybody in the United States, but for everybody in the world."

As that first moon shot neared, Borman's wife, Susan, demanded to know the crew's chances. A NASA director answered: 50-50.

Borman wanted to get to the moon and get back fast. In his mind, a single lap around the moon would suffice. His bosses insisted on more.

"My main concern in this whole flight was to get there ahead of the Russians and get home. That was a significant achievement in my eyes," Borman explained at the Chicago launch of the book "Rocket Men" last spring.

Everyone eventually agreed: Ten orbits it would be.

Liftoff of the Saturn V occurred on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 21, 1968.

On Christmas Eve, the spaceship successfully slipped into orbit around the moon. Before bedtime, the first envoys to another world took turns reading the first 10 verses from Genesis. It had been left to Borman, before the flight, to find "something appropri-

ate" to say for what was expected to be the biggest broadcast audience to date.

"We all tried for quite a while to figure out something, and it all came up trite or foolish," Borman recalled. Finally, the wife of a friend of a friend came up with the idea of Genesis.

"In the beginning," Anders read, "God created the heaven and the Earth ..." Borman ended the broadcast with, "And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you — all of you on the good Earth."

On Christmas morning, their spacecraft went around the moon for the final time. The engine firing needed to shoot them back to Earth occurred while the capsule was out of communication with Mission Control in Houston. Lovell broke the nervous silence as the ship reappeared: "Please be informed there is a Santa Claus."

Back in Houston, meanwhile, a limousine driver knocked on Marilyn Lovell's door and handed her a gift-wrapped mink stole with a card that read: "To Marilyn, Merry Christmas from the man in the moon." Lovell bought the coat for his wife and arranged its fancy delivery before liftoff. Splashdown occurred in the pre-dawn darkness on Dec. 27, bringing the in-

credible six-day journey to a close. Time magazine named the three astronauts "Men of the Year."

It wasn't until after the astronauts were back that the significance of their Earth pictures sank in.

Anders snapped the iconic Earthrise photo during the crew's fourth orbit of the moon, frantically switching from black-and-white to color film to capture the planet's exquisite, fragile beauty.

"Oh my God, look at that picture over there!" Anders said. "There's the Earth coming up. Wow, is that pretty!"

Before the flight, no one had thought about photographing Earth, according to Anders. The astronauts were under orders to get pictures for potential lunar landing sites while orbiting 70 miles (112 kilometers) above the moon.

"We came to explore the moon and what we discovered was the Earth," Anders is fond of saying.

His Earthrise photo is a pillar of today's environmental movement. It remains a legacy of Apollo and humanity's achievement, said professor emeritus John Logsdon of George Washington University's Space Policy Institute, forever underscoring the absence of political borders as seen from space.

Anders wondered then — and now — "This is not a very big place, why can't we get along?"

Lovell remains awestruck by the fact he could hide all of Earth behind his thumb.

"Over 3 billion people, mountains, oceans, deserts, everything I ever knew was behind my thumb," he recalled at a recent anniversary celebration at Washington's National Cathedral.

Astronaut-artist Nicole Stott said the golden anniversary provides an opportunity to reintroduce the world to Earthrise. She and three other former space travelers are holding a celebration at NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Friday, 50 years to the day Apollo 8 launched. □



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For Saoirse Ronan, 'Queen of Scots' role gave room to grow

By BROOKE LEFFERTS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Saoirse Ronan says she was "more than ready" to make the transition on film, and in real life, from young girl to commanding woman. Her new role in "Mary Queen of Scots," gave her the opportunity to do both.

Ronan, who is Irish, says she was not only excited to play Mary Stuart, a Celtic woman who ruled Scotland in the 16th century, but also to take on such a meaty part.

Nominated for Oscars for roles in "Atonement," "Brooklyn" and last year's awards season favorite, "Lady Bird," Ronan, 24, has often played girls who are still finding their way in the world. But "Mary Queen of Scots" provided the transition to full womanhood as her character falls in love, becomes a mother, and rides a horse into battle.

"Playing Mary offered me so much as an actor. It's the first time that I've played someone who really comes into their womanhood and is very sort of settled and comfortable in that stage of their life," Ronan says. "Doing the labor scene es-



In this Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018 photo, Saoirse Ronan poses for a portrait during her press tour for "Mary, Queen of Scots" in New York, New York.

pecially, it was just a really, really empowering scene ... and I think just getting to play someone who can, you know scream and be sweaty, and you know enjoy sex and go onto the battlefield and do all of these things was really liberating for me."

Her character also faces betrayal from both family and political factions who didn't always respect a woman in power. In the film, Scots who wanted Queen Mary to lose her position fabricated rumors to sway the public against her. The negative rhetoric

may resonate with modern audiences.

"It totally mirrors exactly what's happening now and what has kind of always happened to, especially I think, women in politics — the way they're shamed and the way they're ridiculed for basi-

cally anything that isn't their policy." Ronan went on to say "it's been really interesting to see how people have been able to pick up on so many things in the film that were taking place 500 years ago that are still very much a common occurrence now."

Ronan says she always wanted to collaborate with Margot Robbie, who plays Queen Elizabeth I in "Mary." The two actresses decided it would be best for on-screen tension if they didn't see each other until their one scene together.

"By the time we actually saw each other which was in a take, and the camera shot us both at the same time, it was just the best buzz ever," Ronan says.

Playing a formidable queen was like "gold dust" but Ronan says she's also attracted to characters who are vulnerable and damaged.

"It's great to play really strong women, but also I just really want to play very well written roles. So even if they are a bit of a mess or a bit ditzy or whatever, I don't mind that."

"Mary Queen of Scots" is in theaters now. □

Associated Press

Raf Simons out at Calvin Klein after 2 high-profile years

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Less than two years after he shook up the New York fashion world with a splashy runway debut for Calvin Klein, designer Raf Simons is leaving the company.

The company and the Belgian designer announced they had "amicably" decided to part ways after Calvin Klein "decided on a new brand direction different from Simons' creative vision."

A representative for Simons said in an email Friday night that the designer would have no further comment.

Simons revitalized Calvin Klein with his hip European sensibility after being ap-



In this Tuesday, July 11, 2017 file photo, Fashion designer Raf Simons, left, makes adjustments before his fashion show during Men's Fashion Week in New York.

Associated Press

pointed chief creative officer in 2016. His New York Fashion Week shows were the talk of the industry, beginning with his February 2017 debut, which had a clear political message, opening and closing with

the David Bowie song "This is Not America."

Celebrities flocked to his shows, critics raved, and the fashion establishment rewarded him with three top awards in two years. He won the Coun-

cil of Fashion Designers of America award for womenswear in both 2017 and 2018, and in a rare feat also took the menswear award in 2017.

But critical raves don't necessarily translate to commercial success. There was reportedly disappointment on the part of PVH, the corporation that owns Calvin Klein, in sales under Simons.

Simons, 50, who previously worked at Dior and Jil Sander, brought an artsy European approach to the iconic American brand, often citing numerous cultural references — but especially Hollywood — as inspiration. In September, his runway show riffed on the movie "Jaws," with models in various types of

wetsuits strolling in front of enormous screens depicting a glistening ocean.

Many of the garments had big bites taken out of them — as in shark bites. Simons said the shark represented danger.

"Very often we are attracted to things that we actually know are dangerous," he said in an interview. "But we can't stay away from it."

At his show last February, Simons coated the former American Stock Exchange Building in downtown Manhattan with a huge bed of popcorn.

Guests slogged through the kernels to get to their seats, with bits of popcorn falling into boots and shoes and coating one's clothes with powder. □

'Welcome to Marwen' is a fantastic misstep

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

Eighteen years ago, a man named Mark Hogencamp was brutally beaten by five men outside of a bar in Kingston, New York. The assault put him in a coma for over a week and left him with permanent brain damage and little memory of his previous life. To cope, he constructed an elaborate miniature World War II-era Belgian town where he would create fantasy sequences with dolls representing himself, his friends and even his assailants, and photographed them. He called the town Marwencol and the eccentric and fascinating scene caught the attention of the art world, the media and eventually became the subject of an acclaimed 2010 documentary. Why Hollywood and an always innovative filmmaker like Robert Zemeckis would be drawn to this inherently dramatic, emotional and fantastical story is hardly a mystery. The head-scratcher is how it ended up as such a disaster. Yes, "Wel-



This image released by Universal Pictures shows the dolls of Marwen, from left, Anna, voiced by Gwendoline Christie, Cap'n Hogie, voiced by Steve Carell, GI Julie, voiced by Janelle Monáe, Roberta, voiced by Merritt Wever, Suzette, voiced by Leslie Zemeckis, and Carlala, voiced by Eiza Gonzalez, in "Welcome to Marwen."

come to Marwen," despite what I believe were the best of intentions, is cloying, jaw-droppingly sexist and oddly lifeless. It's not that it's a poorly-directed movie. It's just stunningly ill-conceived. Steve Carell plays Mark, and his WWII action-figure alter-ego Hoagie, who we meet first.

Hoagie is handsome, assured and unflappable in wartime. A plane crash? No problem. Shoes on fire? He'll just wear a pair of heels instead. A Nazi holding him at gunpoint? He'll talk to him with no fear. And if he gets in over his head, no worries, a cabal of beautiful, machine-gun-toting and scantily clad women will come to save him. This

is his fantasy, so they all love him of course, but he tells them to keep their distance because there's this blue-haired Belgian witch named Deja Thoris (Diane Krueger, who is probably thankful to be hidden behind the animation) who gets jealous and kills women who get close to him. Seriously. In the real world, however, Mark is a mess,

living in a semi-permanent mobile home, popping pills like candy, and avoiding human interactions wherever he can — especially those that remind him of the assault, which is why he's doing everything he can to get out of attending the sentencing hearing for his attackers despite his lawyer's pleas.

His PTSD manifests in his fantasy world. When he feels attacked, suddenly there's machine gun fire being sprayed throughout the bar in Marwen. It's also the place where he can always get the girl, if he so chooses. He can also construct whatever kind of girl he wants, whether it's a young blond milkmaid or a replica of the woman, Nicol (an uncomfortable-looking Leslie Mann), who has just moved into the house across from him. "Welcome to Marwen," co-written by Zemeckis and Caroline Thompson ("Edward Scissorhands") wants to be both childlike and adult in ways that the film is not equipped to examine in any sort of serious way, making the whole thing creepy and discomforting. □

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Travis Scott in talks to perform at halftime show

By **MESFIN FEKADU**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rapper Travis Scott is in talks to perform at the Super Bowl halftime in Atlanta, The Associated Press has learned. A person familiar with the situation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak about the topic publicly, told The AP that Scott is close to signing on to perform at Super Bowl 53 on Feb. 3 at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The person confirmed that Scott will headline Pepsi's pre-Super Bowl concert on Feb. 1 in Atlanta, two days before the Super Bowl. Controversy has surrounded the halftime show since NFL player Colin Kaepernick said he would not stand for the national anthem in protest of racial dis-



In this June 2, 2018 file photo, rapper Travis Scott performs at The Governors Ball Music Festival in New York.

Associated Press

crimination against blacks in the United States two years ago. Some musicians have reconsidered performing at the Super Bowl as a result, and Rihanna and Jay-Z were among the stars who reportedly said no to performing at halftime show. The person said Pepsi, which sponsors

the halftime show, brought Scott to the NFL, which is in talks with the rapper. Scott, 26, has had an uber-successful year with his latest album "Astroworld," one of the year's top releases. It features the No. 1 hit, "Sicko Mode," and recently earned Scott three Grammy nominations. □

Ailey troupe marks 60 years by looking back at its founder

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It was March 1958 when an African-American dancer named Alvin Ailey, then making his living on the Broadway stage, gathered up a group of fellow dancers and presented a one-night show of his own works. In the audience at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan was 18-year Sylvia Waters, who was studying dance across town at Juilliard. She had never seen anything like it. "It was absolutely riveting," she says now. "I had never seen men dance like that." Most exciting to Waters was seeing people dance "who I could relate to," she says. "There was something so visceral about the experience. We didn't know at the time that it was history, but it was definitely special."

It was indeed history: The company born that night, which Waters would join a decade later, is now 60 years old and credited with helping popularize modern dance, as well as bringing the African-American experience to a global stage. The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is one of the best known companies in the world, touring constantly and still earning rapturous ovations for its signature work, "Revelations," which tells the African-American story through spirituals and blues.

To mark the milestone, the company has been devoting its current New York season to remembering Ailey himself, who died at age 58 in 1989, with a major new work, "Lazarus," as well as "Timeless Ailey," a compilation that includes a piece of "Blues Suite," performed that night in 1958. It's a time for the company to reflect on how it made it this far, says Judith Jamison, the former Ailey artistic director and still its best-known face.

"It's amazing," says Jamison, 75, who in her dancing years became known for the searing "Cry," another Ailey signature piece. "I find it remark-



This image released by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater shows a performance from the second act of "Lazarus," choreographed by Rennie Harris, in New York.

able that we still exist today, to these 60 years. And I think Mr. Ailey would be absolutely beside-himself happy, that something he started 60 years ago could blossom into everything he imagined."

In a recent interview on the sidelines of company rehearsal, Jamison recalled being present as Ailey died, along with Waters and Ailey's mother. "We were in his room as he passed, and usually you see in movies, that people have their last breath and they breathe out. But Mr. Ailey breathed IN. We expected him to breathe out, and he didn't. So I think what we're living on now, is his breath OUT ... that air, that vision, that dream."

A key challenge for the company is keeping Ailey's memory alive and present — not just for audiences, but for the dancers who never met him. Yannick Lebrun, who grew up in French Guiana and joined the company 10 years ago, says he learned about Ailey from people like Jamison. "She always talked about Alvin and how generous he was, how human he was," says Lebrun, one of the company's current stars, "and how dedicated he was to sharing his love for modern dance, but also his

memories from growing up in the South, and African-American heritage and history."

Ailey grew up in poverty in small-town Texas, to a 17-year-old mother. It's both the story of his early life and the broader African-American experience that the company is telling with the two-act "Lazarus," so named for the theme of resurrection. It was choreographed by hip-hop artist Rennie Harris and commissioned by Robert Battle, Jamison's successor as artistic director.

"There came this thing of wanting to hear Mr. Ailey's voice, because so many of us didn't have the opportunity to know him," says Battle. He means "voice" both figuratively and literally; there's a section of "Lazarus" where the choreographer inserts his own voice into old audio of Ailey, as if interviewing him today.

The piece begins with a historical look at the African-American struggle, including a depiction of lynchings, and then moves into full-on, high-energy hip-hop. "Hip-hop is a celebration of life," Battle says.

The genre also connects with younger audiences, of course, and the company's challenge — like that of any arts organization —

is to bring younger people into the fold. "Our biggest challenge is the competition for people's leisure time," Battle says. "The phones, the technology." The cost of touring, too, is rising. "We have to continue to find ways to reach new audiences," he says. However successful the new piece, or others in the company's broad repertoire, nothing will ever take the place of "Revelations," which more than a signature work is the very core of the company's identity. It's on the schedule most evenings the company performs.

Indeed, the work is so much in demand that none other than Ailey himself tried to cut back on it years ago, to showcase other things. But ticket sales dropped, Battle says, "And so Alvin said, 'Put it back on!'" Performed everywhere from the Olympics to the White House, the work has often been called the most-seen piece of modern dance, but it's hard to imagine anything to compare it with.

"It's a phenomenon," Battle says simply, "a once-in-a-lifetime work. It's universal in such a palpable way that no matter if we're across the street or across the ocean, people have a visceral response." He

describes a trip to Russia where he felt very far from home — until he saw the audience cheering "Revelations." Suddenly, he says, "it became a church somewhere in the South." The popularity of "Revelations" is hardly a challenge, Battle says — he sees it as a blessing. "It's like Aretha singing, 'Respect,'" he notes. "People don't get tired of it. It's, 'C'mon, sing it!'" Jamison adds that on evenings when "Revelations" isn't on the bill, audiences still appreciate seeing the new works — and then, she quips, "they'll buy another ticket, to get their fix." Nor do the dancers, for whom "Revelations" is a rite of passage, seem to tire of the work, Lebrun says.

"There's always something new to say," says Lebrun, whose favorite sections to perform are "I Wanna Be Ready," a solo for a man preparing to meet his maker, and "Sinner Man," where he enters the stage in an adrenaline-fueled sprint.

"'Revelations' is why we are here right now, 60 years later," Lebrun says. "So if we don't take care of it ... this most important modern dance piece in the world, then why are we here? Why are we doing what we're doing?" □

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